

JUNE 2024



AUXILIARY NEWS

Welcome to the latest edition of the quarterly Auxiliary Newsletter. We hope that publishing the digital newsletter in a PDF format will make it more user-friendly and easier to download.

All Auxiliary members whose details are registered on the sub-Branch Portal will receive a copy of the newsletter by email, as will each RSL NSW sub-Branch. The sub-Branch Portal is a website for Office Bearers that provides access to member information, as well as resources relating to administration, commemorations, governance and compliance.

It is important that contact details in the sub-Branch Portal are current, because both your sub-Branch and RSL NSW will use those details to contact you. So, if you have any changes to your address, phone or email, please advise your sub-Branch Secretary or ANZAC House.

The newsletter is also available on the [RSL Auxiliaries](#) page on the RSL NSW website.

I would like to thank those who emailed photos and provided content for this newsletter to showcase the great work that the Auxiliaries do. We can't do it without you! Our next newsletter will be published in September, and we would love to receive contributions for that issue no later than 15 September.

The newsletter will touch on some important updates for Auxiliary members, so please share this edition with them. In the meantime, stay well and stay warm!

Sue & Pauline

IMPORTANT UPDATES

MEAO Commemoration

Some sub-Branches are planning for the inaugural Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) commemoration on Thursday 11 July 2024. An official service, honouring those ADF personnel who served in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan during 2001 – 2021, will take place at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney, at 11am on 11 July. All RSL NSW members, the wider veteran community, and members of the public are invited to attend. More information is available on the [RSL NSW website](#).

The inaugural MEAO commemoration presents a valuable opportunity for sub-Branches to engage with young veterans and current-serving members in their local community, by facilitating a commemoration and taking guidance from younger veterans to modernise aspects of the service.

RSL and Schools Remember ANZAC Art Competition

The RSL and Schools Remember ANZAC Art Competition is now open for 2025. NSW-based primary and secondary schools are invited to submit a maximum of two artworks for judging by a panel consisting of representatives from the NSW Education Standards Authority, Art Gallery of NSW, RSL NSW and the Anzac Memorial Veteran Artist in Residence.

The two winning pieces of artwork will feature on the cover of the 2025 RSL and Schools Remember ANZAC Service program. All finalists will receive a certificate and medal, and will have their artwork displayed at the Anzac Memorial.

This competition closes to schools on 1 November 2024 and finalists will be announced and notified on 15 November 2024. For more information including the guidelines, how to submit artwork, judging and FAQs, please visit the [RSL NSW website](#).



Portal training for sub-Branches and Auxiliaries

With the introduction of the [RSL NSW Member Portal](#), there are now two secure places to access key information and resources:

- **Member Portal:** includes information and resources that are relevant to the wider RSL NSW membership, related to services and support, governance, the Veteran Support Fund, awards, the RSL NSW Sport & Recreation Program, the Member Merchandise Store, commemorations and events, membership forms, and ANZAC House communications.
- **Sub-Branch Portal:** includes a suite of resources that are specifically designed to assist Office Bearers to successfully operate their sub-Branch, conduct community commemorations, submit budgets, annual returns, and compliance reports, complete training programs, and securely manage member data.

To further assist, a Portal training session is available to all sub-Branches and Auxiliaries. The session can be conducted via Microsoft Teams on a date that suits you and is an opportunity to build your knowledge of both the Member and sub-Branch Portal and to have any questions answered by the team at ANZAC House.

If you would like to book a training session with ANZAC House for your Auxiliary, please contact your Member Support Team via support@rslnsw.org.au or 1300 679 775.

New Volunteer Manager

ANZAC House has recently welcomed a Volunteer Manager to oversee the support, development and recognition of RSL NSW volunteers. Sub-Branches and Auxiliaries may be contacted by the Volunteer Manager as she gathers important information regarding current volunteer participation.

Veterans Policy & Advocacy Update

RSL NSW continues to work with all levels of Government, the RSL nationally, and other ESOs to be a strong advocacy voice for veterans and their families. The latest Policy & Advocacy Update includes:

- A review of what the Commonwealth Budget delivers for veterans
- The RSL's response to the proposed Veteran Entitlements legislation
- A summary from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide final hearing block
- Updates from the most recent RSL NSW Veteran Services and Policy Committee, National Veterans' Affairs Committee and Ex-Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT) meetings
- Continued progress on the Register of Motions

Read the latest Policy & Advocacy Update on the [RSL NSW website](#).

Become a Wellbeing Support Officer

Are you looking for a way to provide hands-on support to your local veteran community? Consider becoming an RSL NSW Wellbeing Support Officer (WSO). The WSO project aims to train a volunteer from every RSL NSW sub-Branch to become a WSO who can provide veterans with connection to camaraderie, support, and vital services.

While RSL NSW has 30,000 members who stand ready to provide mateship, connection, and support to their fellow veterans and families, WSOs are equipped with the specific knowledge and skills to support, listen and refer a veteran in crisis to the services they need.

Find out more about the WSO project, and register your interest on the [RSL NSW website](#).



Governor General concludes tenure

On 1 July 2024, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) will conclude his tenure as Governor General. For the last 10 years, Their Excellencies General the Honourable David Hurley and Mrs Linda Hurley have been supportive of the Auxiliaries.

Mrs Hurley was Patron of the RSL NSW Auxiliaries during their years in Sydney, and we would like to express thanks for their continued support and wish them much happiness

Ms Samantha Mostyn AO will become Australia's 28th Governor-General when she is sworn in on 1 July 2024.



ANZAC Appeal raised \$36K

A special thank you to the Auxiliaries who assisted ANZAC House with fundraising for the ANZAC Appeal.

A total of \$36,380 was raised from the street-based appeal to help support RSL NSW partner charity, RSL LifeCare Veteran Services.

Veteran Support Fund donations close 30 June

Donations to the Veteran Support Fund (VSF) 2024 initiatives will close on 30 June. Some initiatives have already reached their financial goal, but there are a number of VSF initiatives that are still under-subscribed, including [RSL LifeCare Veteran Services](#).

Contributions to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services are instrumental in ensuring veterans and their families across NSW can continue to access free support and services. Since RSL NSW sub-Branches donated \$3.3 million last year, RSL LifeCare Veteran Services has been able to:

- Provide 305 cases of financial assistance, totalling \$329,365
- Assist 110 veterans with housing and homelessness support
- Provide 3,361 nights of shelter and accommodation to veterans experiencing homelessness
- Help 693 veterans to lodge 3,014 DVA claims
- Lodge 195 new VRB appeals, complete 275 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mediation discussions and represent at 29 full VRB Board Hearings
- Facilitate 306 veterans or partners to receive employment assistance or training
- Guide 95 veterans through horse handling and riding courses

As RSL NSW and RSL LifeCare establish more Veterans' & Families' Hubs in NSW, financial support from sub-Branches is critical to ensure that veterans and their families can access local services, including wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing assistance, social connection and physical and mental health services.

Donations for the 2025 VSF initiatives will open when they are announced on 1 August 2024.

Ron Irwin receives OAM

Congratulations to Ron Irwin, of Wingham RSL sub-Branch, who received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his dedicated service to veterans, as part of the Kings Birthday Honours List. A well-deserved recognition! Ron is a great supporter of not only his own sub-Branch and Auxiliary, but a supporter of all RSL NSW Auxiliaries.

ADMINISTRATION

Membership applications

The RSL Auxiliary Membership Application form can be downloaded from the [Auxiliaries page](#) on the RSL NSW website. This form cannot currently be completed online. Forms should be printed and completed, then sent to your sub-Branch Secretary. Once approved, the form will be emailed to support@rslnsw.org.au to be processed. The new member's details will be added to the sub-Branch Portal and their membership badge issued.

Auxiliary locations

A list of all RSL Auxiliaries in NSW can be found on the [Auxiliaries page](#) on the RSL NSW website. Please scroll to the end of the page for a list of locations. Contact with the Auxiliary can be made via the sub-Branch. [Click here](#) to find contact details for RSL sub-Branches.

Website refresh

The [Auxiliaries page](#) on the RSL NSW website will be getting a refresh in the coming months, to make it more engaging and user-friendly. If you have any clear, high-resolution photos of your Auxiliary that you would like to share for the website, please send them to support@rslnsw.org.au for consideration.

Replacement badges

Lost badge replacements should be arranged through your sub-Branch Honorary Secretary and will incur a cost of \$5 per badge + \$12 registered postage and handling. Please note: There is no crown on the new badges, so any member who has stars will not be able to attach them to the new badge.

Damaged badges need to be returned to ANZAC House, as they remain the property of RSL NSW. (Excluding Life Membership Badges, they remain the property of the member.)

Years of service

Stars are no longer issued for 10, 20 or 30 years, however sub-Branches can issue Certificates of Service, if they wish. RSL NSW will issue Certificates of Service for members who have served the League for 50 years and 75 years. Applications should be made by the sub-Branch with supporting evidence.

Life Membership

Life Membership is one of the highest honours that can be bestowed upon an RSL NSW Service Member and therefore all recommendations should be thoroughly considered in that light. This is not a long service award, but an acknowledgment of outstanding service to the League

The Life Membership eligibility criteria and application form can be downloaded from [Auxiliaries page](#) on the RSL NSW website. For more detail about the award, please refer to [SOP9 Ceremonies and Memorabilia](#).



Lady Woodward Cup

Application forms for the Lady Woodward Cup 2024 will be available in the coming months. In 2023, 11 entries were received, and we hope to see more this year. Every Auxiliary can enter.

More information on how the Lady Woodward Cup winner is selected, and ideas for earning the points required, can be found in our October 2023 issue of the Auxiliary newsletter.

RSL NSW branded merchandise

So that Auxiliaries can be recognised in the community as go-to people, providing support to veterans and their families, you may wish to purchase or print RSL NSW-branded merchandise. The [RSL NSW Member Merchandise Store](#) includes a range of clothing and accessories, while the ['Events and Promotional Tools' section](#) of the Member Portal is a one-stop-shop for promotional resources that help to keep branding consistent and engage your local veteran community.

If you are getting custom resources printed, please ensure you do the following:

- Refer to the [RSL NSW Brand Guidelines](#) for colours, fonts and logo placement.
- Ensure you refer to your sub-Branch using this format: XXXX RSL sub-Branch.
- Download hi-res logos from the [Member Recruitment Toolkit](#). RSL sub-Branch logos can be produced by the team at ANZAC House, upon request. Please contact the
- Member Support Team via support@rslnsw.org.au or 1300 679 775.
- If you have any questions, or would like feedback on a design before having it printed, please reach out to your friendly Member Support Team via support@rslnsw.org.au or 1300 679 775.

AROUND THE AUXILIARIES

In the lead-up to ANZAC Day, RSL NSW Auxiliaries were out and about raising funds to help support veterans and their families.

Fairfield RSL Auxiliary

Members of the Fairfield RSL Auxiliary nearly sold out of badges at Bunnings in the lead-up to ANZAC Day. They were joined at their table by a beautiful four-legged friend, and experienced a wonderful reception from locals, wanting to help support veterans and their families. The Auxiliary also took the opportunity to team up with other charities to raise funds by selling their hand-crafted goods, when Bunnings at Villawood hosted an evening of family music, entertainment, food and drink, and market stalls.



Doyalson Wye RSL Auxiliary

The Doyalson Wye RSL Auxiliary were busy selling and raising funds at their local Bunnings store.

Please note: A selection of new tokens, including poppies, pins and pens, is now available for purchase from RSL NSW supplier. To order, visit the [Fundraising page](#) on the RSL NSW website.



East Maitland RSL Auxiliary

Members from the East Maitland RSL Auxiliary set up their fundraising table in several locations to sell badges. Great to see the prominent placement of the RSL NSW brand in a busy shopping centre!



Uralla RSL Auxiliary

Uralla RSL Auxiliary held a week-long street stall for ANZAC Day, selling gifts, including poppy mugs, scarves, badges, hand-made dresses and baby blankets, and jewellery. They also raffled six beautiful prizes.



Castle Hill and District RSL Auxiliary

On top of their daily stall at the Castle Hill RSL club, the Castle Hill and District RSL Auxiliary hosted an additional ANZAC Appeal Stall at the Lynwood Golf & Country Club.



Penrith RSL Auxiliary

Members from the Penrith RSL Auxiliary were ready to fundraise by selling ANZAC Day badges and memorabilia after their local Dawn Service.

Toukley RSL Auxiliary

A stall was set up by Toukley RSL Auxiliary at the Wallarah Bay Recreation Club, in support of their ANZAC Day service, held on the 14 April. The stall was manned by Auxiliary Co-ordinator, Christine Sellers, and Deputy Co-ordinator, Bev Pritchatt. Auxiliary member, Denise Humphries, also attended and took photographs of the service including the participating Toukley RSL sub-Branch members. The day was a great success for the Wyong Leagues Club Group and Toukley RSL sub-Branch.



Bass Hill RSL Auxiliary

At their annual ANZAC Lunch, the Bass Hill RSL Auxiliary celebrated one member's 101st birthday. That's a wonderful reason to enjoy some cake. Congratulations, Lori!



Do you have photos of your Auxiliary?

Share them via marketing@rslnsw.org.au, so that we can feature them on the RSL NSW website, social channels and in *Reveille*. Ensure your photos are clear, high-resolution, and showcase the amazing work done by your Auxiliary.

Port Macquarie RSL Auxiliary

The locals of Port Macquarie always come out in the thousands on ANZAC Day to honour the men and women who served Australia proudly, and this year was no exception. Among those marching were sub-Branch President Jason Gill, Treasurer Rob Bruce, and, leading the parade, 100-years-young Roy Boyle.



Billy Bear Pre-School & Early Learning Centre ANZAC Service and Lions Club ANZAC Commemoration

Every year since 2013, Pauline and Ray James have been attending the ANZAC Service at the Billy Bear Pre-School & Early Learning Centre at Ingleburn. And this year was another wonderful day for everyone!



Pauline was also invited to be guest speaker at the 60th Anniversary ANZAC Commemoration Dinner of The West Pennant Hills Lions Club, where a raffle was held, and the proceeds were donated to RSL NSW Auxiliaries. Thanks to Geoff Irvine and all involved.

'THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE' QUILTS

RSL NSW and the RSL NSW Auxiliaries proudly acknowledged the dedication of 10 individuals, whose hard work has made a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. RSL NSW members from Terrigal/Wamberal, Gosford, City of Penrith, Bass Hill and South West Rocks RSL sub-Branched were honoured to receive 'Thank You For Your Service' Quilts.



David Anderson

As General Manager at RSL NSW partner charity, RSL LifeCare Veteran Services, the hard work done by David Anderson ensures that veterans and their families throughout NSW can access vital services and support.



David Ferry

Dedicated to helping veterans in their time of need, David Ferry spent seven years as Secretary of the Terrigal/Wamberal RSL sub-Branch, and is now Vice President/Secretary of the Central Coast District Council.



Derek Crawford

A double-nominee for Volunteer of the Year, Derek Crawford serves as Vice President of the Gosford RSL sub-Branch, and is the Liaison Officer between the sub-Branch and the Gosford Hospital Carers Cottage.

Nominate a quilt recipient from your sub-Branch:

'Thank You For Your Service' quilts are hand-crafted by volunteers from the RSL NSW Auxiliary network, and awarded to recognise the dedication of past and current-serving ADF members, who offer ongoing support to the veteran community.

If you would like to nominate someone from your sub-Branch to receive a 'Thank You For Your Service' Quilt, please email your nomination directly to support@rslnsw.org.au



Betty Sutherland

An active member of the City of Penrith RSL sub-Branch for more than 40 years, Betty Sutherland has raised much-needed funds to help support veterans and their families.



Alf Smith

Alf Smith was recognised for his service to the City of Penrith RSL sub-Branch for his meaningful and continuing contribution to the League.



Ron Duckworth

A proud RSL NSW Life Member, Ron Duckworth currently volunteers as Treasurer of Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch and District Council Secretary.

CAMDEN COUNTRY QUILTERS GUILD 32ND ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2024



RAFFLE
TICKETS
PRIZES

OVER 100 QUILTS ON DISPLAY
STALL HOLDERS AND
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

10AM - 4PM
FRIDAY 2ND TO
SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST 2024

GLEDSDOOD HOMESTEAD & WINERY
900 CAMDEN VALLEY WAY
GLEDSDOOD HILLS NSW 2557



\$8 ENTRY
INCLUDES
TEA &
COFFEE



FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
EXHIBITION COORDINATOR: 0413 038 662
EMAIL: SECRETARYCAMCENCG@GMAIL.COM

Camden Country Quilters Guild 32nd Annual Exhibition 2024

To see more beautiful quilts, including the quilt presented to His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, join the Camden Country Quilters Guild for their 32nd Annual Exhibition. There'll be more than 100 quilts on display at Gledswood Homestead from 2-4 August. For information, visit the [CCQG Facebook Group](#). Without the support of the Camden Country Quilters, none of the Auxiliary's quilt projects would be possible!



Representatives from RSL NSW and the Auxiliaries joined Their Excellencies the Honourable David Hurley and Mrs Linda Hurley at Admiralty House in Sydney on Friday 21 June for four special quilt presentations...



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)

As his tenure as Governor General comes to a close, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley was presented with a quilt made by Christine Boardman and quilted by Auxiliary member Kaye Brown. The design is taken from the stain glass windows in Government House.



Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

From 2014 to 2019, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley was Patron of RSL Auxiliaries, and continued to be a tremendous support. To say thank you, Mrs Hurley was presented with this beautiful poppy quilt, made by Ann-Maree Jacobs. The cross-stitched poppy panels were made by Alison McKean and quilted by Kaye Brown.



Pauline James OAM

For the past 15 years, State Coordinator Pauline James has worked tirelessly for the RSL NSW Auxiliaries. Her hard work was acknowledged with a surprise 'Thank You For Your Service' quilt presentation, made by Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley – and Pauline was speechless!



Alison McKean

As well as supporting her own South West Rocks RSL Auxiliary, Alison McKean has assisted the Auxiliaries for many years with her beautiful craft work. She cross-stitched a stunning stain-glass window design, which she presented to His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley.



Auxiliaries with Facebook pages

Ingleburn

ANZAC House RSL NSW

St George

Bundeena

Leeton

Port Macquarie

Woonona Bulli

Doyalson Wyee

Toukley

Woy Woy/Ettalong/Hardys Bay

If your Auxiliary has a Facebook page and is not listed here, please email us so we can add your details to the next newsletter.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

For those who use Facebook, did you know we have both an Auxiliary Facebook page and group? Click on the links below to join us!

RSL NSW Auxiliary Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163434587113422>

Auxiliary Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/345503682455520>

Battlefields from WWII, Gareth McCray OAM has regular posts, poems from Bill Charlton, and so much more.

Helping Our Veterans Craft Group

Heicke Keefe has set up a Facebook group for all of the crafters amongst us. Pop over and join! There are great ideas to help raise funds:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/345503682455520>

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